

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, January 20, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

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Consumer prices rose 2.3% in the 12 months to December, following a 2.9% increase in November. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.2% in December.	
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Wholesale sales fell 0.4% to \$49.0 billion in November, following six months of consecutive increases. Lower sales in the agricultural supplies industry and the motor vehicle industry contributed to the decline.	
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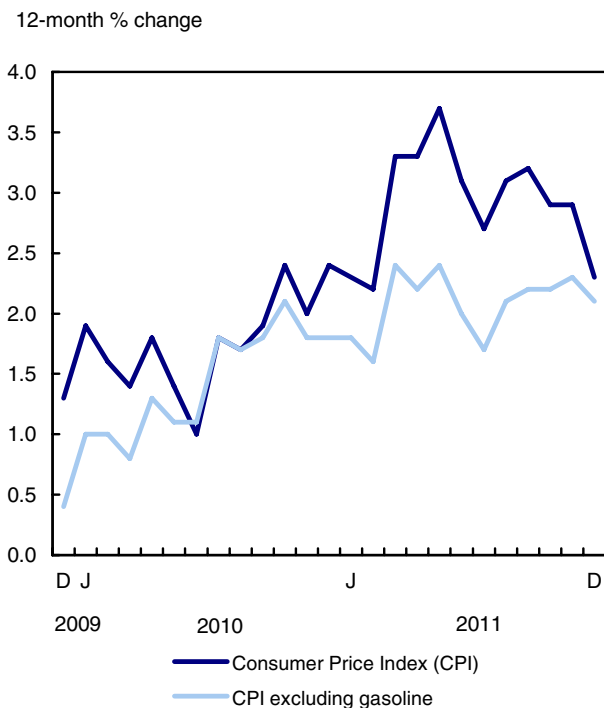
Releases

Consumer Price Index

December 2011

Consumer prices rose 2.3% in the 12 months to December, following a 2.9% increase in November. The 0.6 percentage point difference was led by a slower increase in gasoline prices as well as declines for the purchase of passenger vehicles. A slower year-over-year increase for food was also a factor.

The 12-month change in the CPI and the CPI excluding gasoline



Note to readers

The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's (CPI's) most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components.

Statistics Canada is moving to one release time, 8:30 a.m., for all data releases in The Daily. This will mean a change in the release time for the CPI, which is currently 7:00 a.m. This change will be implemented with the release of CPI data on April 20, 2012.

The cost of gasoline rose 7.6% in the 12 months to December, after advancing 13.5% in November. Gasoline prices have declined steadily on a monthly basis starting in June.

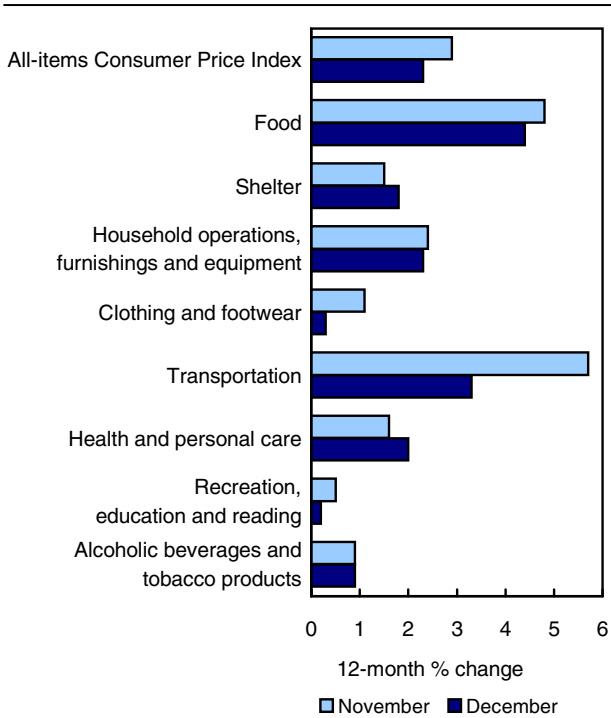
On a year-over-year basis, prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles fell 0.2% in December following a 1.8% rise the month before. On a monthly basis, prices declined 2.3% as manufacturers continued to offer discounts on various vehicles, including new 2012 models.

Consumers paid 4.4% more for food in the 12 months to December, following a 4.8% increase the month before. The year-over-year change for food purchased from stores eased in December to a 5.0% gain from 5.7% in November.

12-month change: Prices up in all major components

On a year-over-year basis, prices rose in all eight major components in December. Transportation and food continued to post the largest increases.

Prices rise at slower rate in five of the major components



The cost of transportation went up 3.3% in the 12 months to December, after rising 5.7% in November. The December gain was the smallest increase in over a year. The slower rise was largely attributable to a slower year-over-year increase in gasoline prices as well as price decreases posted for the purchase of passenger vehicles.

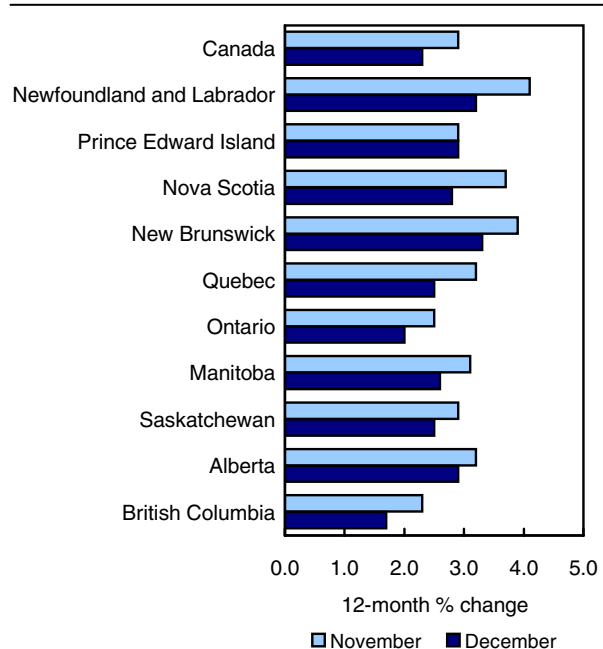
Food prices rose 4.4% in the 12 months to December. Consumers paid more for food purchased from stores as prices increased for common staples, including meat (+5.3%), fresh vegetables (+11.1%) and bread (+8.8%).

Shelter costs rose 1.8% in the 12 months to December. This followed a 1.5% increase posted in November. The index for electricity went up 5.4%, led by price increases in Alberta. Consumers also paid more for fuel oil and homeowners' replacement costs. Conversely, mortgage interest cost decreased 0.7% year-over-year in December after falling 1.1% the month before.

Provinces: Gasoline and food purchased from stores still major factors in every province

Consumer prices rose at a slower rate in December in every province except for Prince Edward Island, where the 12-month increase matched the gain the month before. New Brunswick (+3.3%) posted the largest increase while British Columbia (+1.7%) recorded the smallest gain. Gasoline and food purchased from stores continued to be major factors in all provinces.

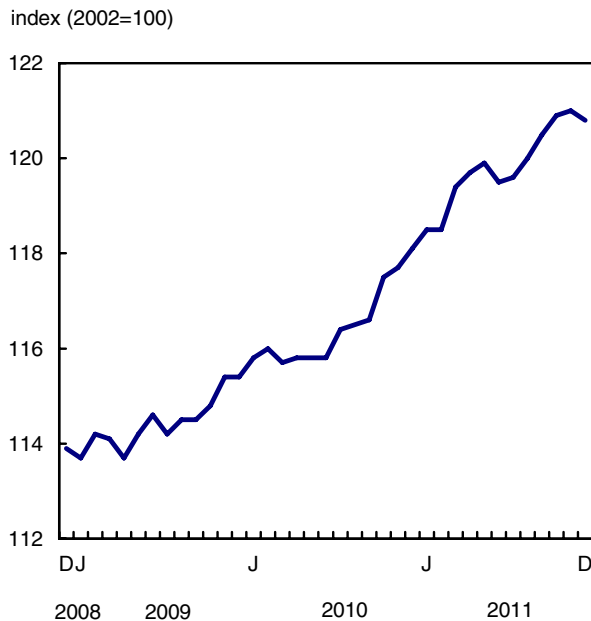
Prices increase at slower rate in every province except for Prince Edward Island



Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index declines

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices decreased 0.2% from November to December, after rising 0.1% from October to November. The transportation index, which includes gasoline and the purchase of passenger vehicles, fell 1.1% in December after increasing 0.3% the month before.

Seasonally adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index declines



The clothing and footwear index decreased 0.1% while the shelter index rose 0.4%. The indexes for health and personal care as well as food also increased in December.

Bank of Canada's core index

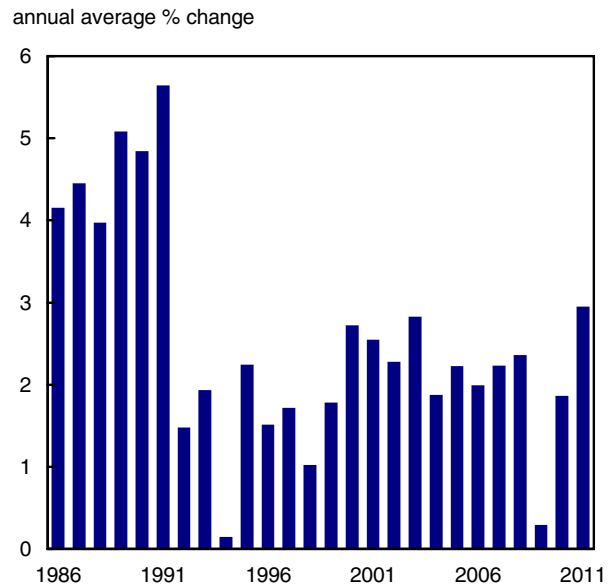
The Bank of Canada's core index rose 1.9% in the 12 months to December, after increasing 2.1% in November. Increases were recorded for food purchased from restaurants and passenger vehicle insurance premiums, while prices for the purchase of passenger vehicles declined.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index posted no change in December.

Annual review of the 2011 Consumer Price Index

In 2011, the annual average increase in consumer prices was 2.9%, following a 1.8% rise in 2010. The faster growth in 2011 was largely attributable to higher prices for gasoline and food. The 2011 increase was slightly higher than the annual average growth rates observed in the early 2000s.

Annual average change in the All-items Consumer Price Index



For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-X, free) from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The December 2011 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 90, no. 12 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*. A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication.

The Consumer Price Index for January will be released on February 17.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca), Communications Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	December 2010	November 2011	December 2011	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	%	(2002=100)		% change		
All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI)	100.00²	117.5	120.9	120.2	-0.6	2.3
Food	15.99	123.9	129.2	129.3	0.1	4.4
Shelter	27.49	124.6	126.3	126.8	0.4	1.8
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.55	109.3	112.1	111.8	-0.3	2.3
Clothing and footwear	5.31	88.8	93.1	89.1	-4.3	0.3
Transportation	20.60	121.2	127.6	125.2	-1.9	3.3
Health and personal care	4.95	115.8	117.9	118.1	0.2	2.0
Recreation, education and reading	11.20	103.9	104.8	104.1	-0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.91	134.6	135.8	135.8	0.0	0.9
Special aggregates						
Core CPI ³	82.15	116.0	118.8	118.2	-0.5	1.9
All-items CPI excluding energy	89.92	115.4	118.2	117.5	-0.6	1.8
Energy ⁴	10.08	144.0	154.1	152.7	-0.9	6.0
Gasoline	5.80	158.0	175.2	170.0	-3.0	7.6
All-items CPI excluding food and energy	73.93	113.5	115.7	115.0	-0.6	1.3
Goods	47.80	110.0	113.8	112.6	-1.1	2.4
Services	52.20	124.9	127.8	127.7	-0.1	2.2

1. 2009 CPI basket weights at April 2011 prices, Canada, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
2. Figures may not add to 100% as a result of rounding.
3. The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi).
4. The special aggregate "Energy" includes electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	December 2010	November 2011	December 2011	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	%	(2002=100)		% change		
Canada	100.00²	117.5	120.9	120.2	-0.6	2.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.29	118.1	122.9	121.9	-0.8	3.2
Prince Edward Island	0.35	119.9	124.0	123.4	-0.5	2.9
Nova Scotia	2.56	119.4	124.0	122.7	-1.0	2.8
New Brunswick	2.06	116.6	121.3	120.4	-0.7	3.3
Quebec	21.21	115.8	119.3	118.7	-0.5	2.5
Ontario	39.85	117.9	121.0	120.3	-0.6	2.0
Manitoba	3.16	115.6	119.6	118.6	-0.8	2.6
Saskatchewan	2.90	119.4	123.4	122.4	-0.8	2.5
Alberta	11.97	122.9	126.6	126.5	-0.1	2.9
British Columbia	14.47	114.6	117.5	116.5	-0.9	1.7
Whitehorse	0.08	115.6	119.4	118.8	-0.5	2.8
Yellowknife	0.07	119.2	123.4	123.4	0.0	3.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	112.1	114.5	114.2	-0.3	1.9

1. 2009 Consumer Price Index basket weights at April 2011 prices, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
2. Figures may not add to 100% as a result of rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components – Seasonally adjusted¹

	Relative importance ²	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	October to November 2011	November to December 2011
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI)	100.00³	120.9	121.0	120.8	0.1	-0.2
Food	15.99	129.3	129.5	129.6	0.2	0.1
Shelter	27.49	126.5	126.3	126.8	-0.2	0.4
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.55	111.8	112.1	112.1	0.3	0.0
Clothing and footwear	5.31	92.6	91.9	91.8	-0.8	-0.1
Transportation	20.60	127.9	128.3	126.9	0.3	-1.1
Health and personal care	4.95	117.5	117.7	118.3	0.2	0.5
Recreation, education and reading	11.20	105.1	105.0	105.0	-0.1	0.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	2.91	135.8	135.8	135.8	0.0	0.0
Special aggregates						
Core CPI ⁴	82.15	118.5	118.5	118.5	0.0	0.0
All-items CPI excluding food and energy ⁵	73.93	115.3	115.4	115.2	0.1	-0.2

- Each month, the previous month's seasonally adjusted index is subject to revision. On an annual basis, the seasonally adjusted values for the last three years are revised with the January data release. Since these revisions can lead to changes in both the levels and movements of the indexes, users employing the CPI for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes.
- 2009 CPI basket weights at April 2011 prices, Canada, effective May 2011. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
- Figures may not add to 100% as a result of rounding.
- The Bank of Canada's core index excludes eight of the Consumer Price Index's most volatile components (fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies) as well as the effects of changes in indirect taxes on the remaining components. For additional information on the core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/cpi).
- The special aggregate "Energy" includes electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

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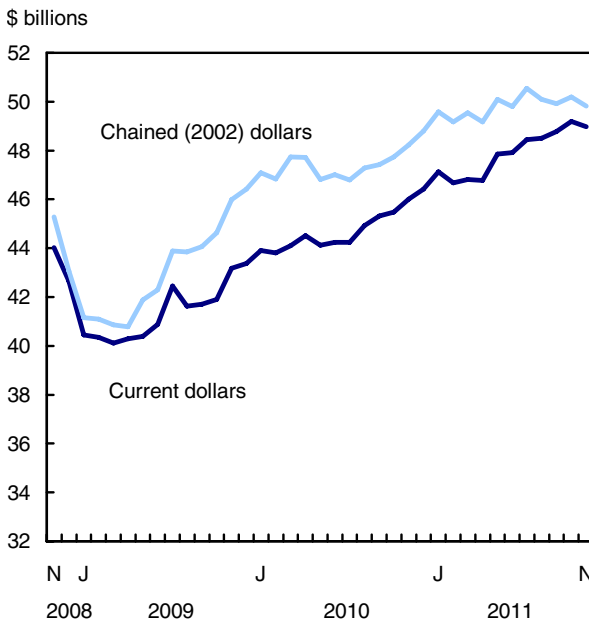
Wholesale trade

November 2011

Wholesale sales fell 0.4% to \$49.0 billion in November, following six months of consecutive increases. Lower sales in the agricultural supplies industry and the motor vehicle industry contributed to the decline.

In volume terms, wholesale sales fell 0.8% in November.

Wholesale sales decrease in November



Three out of seven subsectors post declines

In November, three out of seven subsectors reported declines, with lower sales in the miscellaneous subsector and the motor vehicle and parts subsector contributing to most of the decrease.

The largest sales decrease was observed in the miscellaneous subsector. Sales in this subsector fell 4.4% to \$6.6 billion in November, the lowest sales level since April 2011. All of the component industries were down, with the agricultural supplies (-8.2%) and the other miscellaneous industries (-5.6%) accounting for most of the decline.

Sales in the motor vehicle and parts subsector fell 1.1%, the first decrease in five months. The motor vehicle industry (-1.6%), which accounts for 75% of the subsector, was entirely responsible for the decline.

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Wholesale sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using import and industry product price indexes. Since many of the goods sold by wholesalers are imported, fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar can have an important influence on the prices of goods bought and sold by wholesalers.

The wholesale sales series in chained (2002) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

Wholesale sales in the building material and supplies subsector (-0.5%) also registered a decrease.

The largest increase in dollar terms occurred in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector, which gained 1.3% in November. Of the four component industries, two reported increases. The construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies industry posted a 2.6% increase. Sales in this industry have risen 16.5% since the beginning of the year. The computer and communications equipment and supplies industry recorded a 2.7% increase for the month.

Lower sales in six provinces

Wholesale sales fell in six provinces in November, with Saskatchewan, Quebec and Alberta accounting for most of the national decrease.

Sales in Saskatchewan decreased 5.0% to \$1.9 billion in November, after large gains the previous two months. Lower sales in the agricultural supplies industry contributed to this decline.

In Quebec, sales fell 0.6% in November, after a similar decline in October.

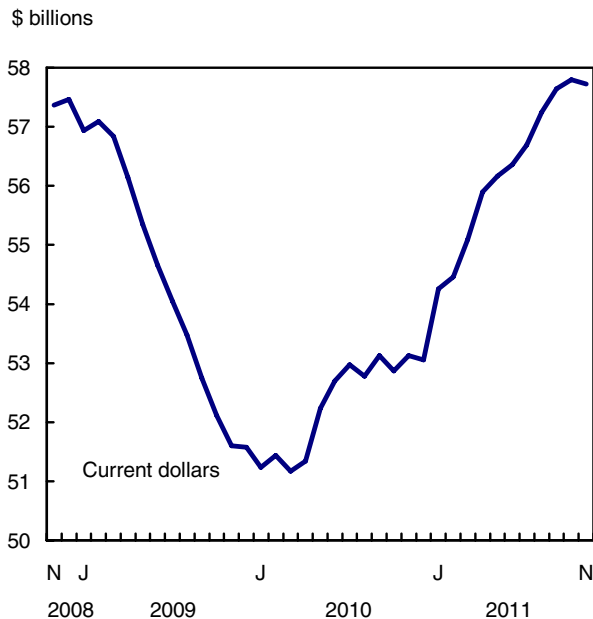
In Alberta, sales decreased 0.7% in November, following a 4.5% advance in October. This is the province's first decline in seven months.

Sales in Ontario edged down 0.1% for the month.

Inventories down slightly

Inventories edged down 0.1% to \$57.7 billion in November, posting their first decrease in 11 months.

Inventories edge down in November



Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0011 to 081-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The November 2011 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for December will be released on February 21.

To obtain data, or for more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Steve Chadder (613-951-0303; steve.chadder@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Overall, 13 of the 25 wholesale industries registered lower inventories. Wholesalers in the motor vehicle industry (-3.8%) and the personal goods industry (-5.0%) reported the largest decreases in dollar terms.

The inventory-to-sales ratio rose to 1.18 in November from 1.17 in October.

The inventory-to-sales ratio is a measure of the time in months required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2010	October 2011 ^r	November 2011 ^p	October to November 2011	November 2010 to November 2011
	\$ millions		% change		
Total, wholesale sales	46,006	49,194	48,983	-0.4	6.5
Total, excluding motor vehicle and parts wholesalers	38,466	41,081	40,958	-0.3	6.5
Farm product	600	617	632	2.4	5.4
Food, beverage and tobacco	8,827	9,246	9,280	0.4	5.1
Food	7,869	8,272	8,311	0.5	5.6
Beverage	461	469	479	2.0	3.8
Cigarette and tobacco product	497	505	490	-3.1	-1.5
Personal and household goods	6,882	7,125	7,154	0.4	4.0
Textile, clothing and footwear	908	918	920	0.2	1.3
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	793	832	787	-5.4	-0.8
Home furnishings	522	510	526	3.2	0.6
Personal goods	744	740	760	2.7	2.2
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,259	3,461	3,492	0.9	7.2
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	656	664	669	0.7	2.0
Motor vehicle and parts	7,540	8,113	8,025	-1.1	6.4
Motor vehicle	5,651	6,181	6,081	-1.6	7.6
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,840	1,888	1,898	0.5	3.2
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	49	44	46	4.4	-7.0
Building material and supplies	6,265	6,663	6,629	-0.5	5.8
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,025	2,164	2,122	-1.9	4.8
Metal service centres	1,354	1,517	1,511	-0.4	11.6
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	2,885	2,983	2,996	0.5	3.9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	9,820	10,554	10,688	1.3	8.8
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,045	1,227	1,220	-0.6	16.7
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,195	3,661	3,756	2.6	17.6
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,175	3,213	3,300	2.7	3.9
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,405	2,452	2,412	-1.6	0.3
Miscellaneous	6,073	6,875	6,576	-4.4	8.3
Recyclable material	726	888	876	-1.4	20.6
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	809	819	802	-2.0	-0.9
Agricultural supplies	1,562	1,791	1,644	-8.2	5.2
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,092	1,280	1,273	-0.6	16.6
Other miscellaneous	1,883	2,098	1,981	-5.6	5.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2010	October 2011 ^r	November 2011 ^p	October to November 2011	November 2010 to November 2011
	\$ millions			% change	
Canada	46,006	49,194	48,983	-0.4	6.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	295	324	324	0.2	10.1
Prince Edward Island	48	50	49	-1.0	2.9
Nova Scotia	645	676	689	2.0	6.8
New Brunswick	473	482	492	1.9	3.9
Quebec	8,867	9,250	9,196	-0.6	3.7
Ontario	23,182	24,190	24,165	-0.1	4.2
Manitoba	1,212	1,344	1,319	-1.9	8.8
Saskatchewan	1,574	2,026	1,925	-5.0	22.3
Alberta	5,560	6,436	6,393	-0.7	15.0
British Columbia	4,080	4,347	4,359	0.3	6.8
Yukon	10	12	14	14.5	38.6
Northwest Territories	54	50	52	4.2	-2.5
Nunavut	6	6	7	7.6	19.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2010	October 2011 ^r	November 2011 ^p	October to November 2011	November 2010 to November 2011
	\$ millions			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	53,125	57,800	57,724	-0.1	8.7
Farm product	162	186	197	6.1	21.6
Food	4,262	4,668	4,743	1.6	11.3
Beverage	232	288	286	-0.7	23.3
Cigarette and tobacco product	233	223	215	-3.5	-7.7
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,790	1,882	1,887	0.3	5.4
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	806	741	698	-5.8	-13.4
Home furnishings	1,020	1,052	1,028	-2.3	0.8
Personal goods	1,233	1,413	1,342	-5.0	8.9
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,197	4,293	4,359	1.5	3.9
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	601	689	681	-1.1	13.2
Motor vehicle	3,153	3,942	3,791	-3.8	20.2
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,087	3,393	3,334	-1.7	8.0
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	73	90	92	1.7	26.5
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,889	3,114	3,069	-1.5	6.2
Metal service centres	2,711	2,998	2,967	-1.0	9.4
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	4,532	4,576	4,567	-0.2	0.8
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,223	3,325	3,349	0.7	3.9
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	7,293	8,247	8,272	0.3	13.4
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,624	1,809	1,818	0.5	12.0
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,141	3,310	3,256	-1.6	3.7
Recyclable material	511	625	664	6.2	30.0
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	637	772	787	2.0	23.6
Agricultural supplies	2,567	2,753	2,830	2.8	10.2
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	861	981	964	-1.8	12.0
Other miscellaneous	2,287	2,432	2,529	4.0	10.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Canadian potato production

2011 (revised)

Nationally, the 2011 seeded area and production of potatoes have been revised downward as a result of revisions to data for Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. The Canadian 2011 production is 91,893,000 hundredweight (4 168 266 tonnes), down 5% from 2010.

Note: The publication *Canadian Potato Production* contains additional tables comparing Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0014, 001-0045 and 001-0070.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3407, 3436, 3446, 3465, 7526 and 7529.

The January 2012 issue of *Canadian Potato Production*, Vol. 9, no. 3 (22-008-X, free), is now available in the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Investment in new housing construction

November 2011

Data on the investment in new housing construction (including single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520; bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New products and studies

Canadian Potato Production, January 2012, Vol. 9,
no. 3
Catalogue number 22-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

The Consumer Price Index, December 2011, Vol. 90,
no. 12
Catalogue number 62-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

**Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: Public Use
Microdata File**, 2003, 2006, and 2008
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Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada,
10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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Release dates: January 23 to 27, 2012

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